GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2499 #
ANSWERED ON 10.08.2026

OPERATION OF AUCTIONED MINERAL BLOCKS

2499 # SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:
SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the operationalization of mineral blocks auctioned across the country, including the number of auctioned blocks that have commenced production;
(b) the contribution of these operationalized mineral blocks towards enhancing the domestic production of major and critical minerals;
(c) the measures taken by Government to facilitate the expeditious operationalization of auctioned mineral blocks through regulatory reforms, statutory clearances and infrastructure support; and
(d) the expected impact of these initiatives on mineral security, investment and employment generation in the mining sector?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES
(SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY)

(a) & (b): Since the introduction of the auction regime in 2015, 720 mineral blocks have been successfully auctioned, comprising 458 Mining Lease (ML) blocks and 262 Composite Licence (CL) blocks. In respect of ML blocks, lease deeds have been executed for 117 blocks, of which 104 blocks have commenced mineral production. In respect of CL blocks, licences are executed in 129 blocks and exploration has started in all of them. Further, 1 block has been upgraded from CL to ML and has commenced mineral production. The operationalization of these mineral blocks is contributing to enhanced domestic production of major minerals such as iron ore, limestone, manganese ore and bauxite, augmenting the availability of raw materials for key sectors including steel, cement and aluminium etc.

(c) & (d): The Government has undertaken several measures for facilitating the expeditious operationalization of auctioned mineral blocks to enhance domestic mineral production, strengthening mineral security and employment generation through regulatory reforms, coordinated monitoring, expeditious statutory clearances and digital interventions. Some of the key measures undertaken are as follows:

i. The Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 have been amended to introduce intermediary timelines, automatic declaration of preferred bidder and automatic issuance of Letter of Intent (LoI), accountability for delays by bidders and State Governments, and incentives for early operationalisation.

ii. A dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) has been established at Ministry of Mines for continuous monitoring of auctioned blocks.

iii. Development of Unified Mining Portal (UMP) as a centralized digital platform for end-to-end tracking and monitoring of the mineral block lifecycle from auction to operationalisation.

iv. Monthly review meetings with State Governments are held under the chairmanship of the Secretary (Mines) to monitor the progress of auction and operationalisation of mineral blocks and resolve bottlenecks.

v. State-specific review meetings with concerned officials from mining, forest, environment, revenue departments and concerned bidders are convened under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Mines and Secretary (Mines).

vi. Pre-Auction Committees have been constituted by major mineral States to resolve land scheduling issues before the auction process, facilitating more participation of bidders and faster operationalisation.

vii. State-level Coordination Committees under Chief Secretary have been constituted by the major mineral states to address the bottlenecks and fast-track the operationalization of auctioned mines.

viii. The State Governments have been incentivized to accelerate the auction of major minerals blocks and expedite operationalization of mines through financial incentives under Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) in FY 2025-26.

ix. Legislative and policy reforms have been undertaken, including provision for inclusion of new minerals in existing mining leases, one-time area extension for Mining Lease (ML)/ Composite Licence (CL), and removal of restrictions on sale of minerals from captive mines to increase ease of doing business.

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